

Statement on Crime aboard Cruise Ships
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While virtually no place—on land or sea—is totally free of risk, Americans traveling aboard the major cruise lines that serve this country can rest assured of their personal safety. Clearly, it is difficult to derive a statistical matchmate for assessing the relative risk of crime aboard cruise ships given the atypical composition of passenger demographics (that is, the age, race gender and income profile of the population of passengers) and the sometimes spirited climate of cruise-ship activity. Regardless of the methodological complexities, the number of reported incidents of serious crime from cruise lines is extremely low, no matter what benchmark or standard is used.

Compared against their home communities, passengers have an appreciably lower risk of sexual assault and robbery while enjoying a vacation cruise (see table below). Based on passenger and crew counts adjusted for exposure time, the rate of sexual assault on cruise lines is—at worst—half the U.S. rate of forcible rape. For robbery, the cruise-related rate is a tiny fraction of the U.S. rate. The low levels of rape and robbery victimization, makes reasonable sense in view of the confined and highly secured environments offered on major cruise ships.

	Sexual Assault	Robbery
Offenses reported on cruise ships, 2993-2005	149	4
Annual average	49.67	1.33
Passenger count, 2003-2005	31,068,000	31,068,000
Annual average	10,356,000	10,356,000
Average passenger cruise length (days)	6.9	6.9
Annualized passenger exposure		
Annual ave passenger count X (6.9/365)	195,771	195,771
Daily crew size on cruise ships	86,035	86,035
Total anualizes person exposure	281,806	281,806
Rate of crime per 100,000	17.6	0.5
U.S. Rate per 100,000	32.2	136.7